MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

- from

David E. McGiffert

49 10708

16 September 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

SUBJECT: House Appropriations Committee investigation of
Department of Defense Special Warfare Program

Messrs. Wood and Conroy gave me a clearer definition of the scope of
their investigation in the course of conversation this morning.

They propose to look into the handling of the military portion of the
counterinsurgency program, particularly as conducted in Phase II
and Phase III. They are interested in the handling of the program by
all agencies involved and the assignment of responsibilities among
the Executive Agencies, especially the leadership role as the insur-
gency escalates. They referred particularly to the matter of primary
responsibility as between DOD and State--who has it, how it is assigned,
and the scope of responsibilities at various phases of insurgency.

Mr. Conroy said that they did not propose to investigate the Viet Nam
situation, at one end of the spectrum, nor were they interested in
military training programs at the other. Neither are they interested
in unconventional warfare, at least in its usual definition as an aspect
of general warfare.

Thus it appears that the shape of the investigation has changed from
that stated in the original Committee staff letter: (1) it is narrower, in
that it relates only to counterinsurgency rather than special warfare
generally, and only to the military portion of counterinsurgency; but
(2) it is broader, in that it comprehends the roles of other agencies and
the relationships and assignment of responsibilities among those agencies
and DOD.

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